

II. Preliminary Amendment

Please add new claims ~~26-29~~ as follows:

26. (New) Hole forming apparatus for forming an opening in a blood vessel, comprising:

a base section defining an inner lumen, said inner lumen being adapted to engage blood vessel tissue; and

at least one cutting surface defined on said base section and adapted to cut through a wall of said blood vessel.

27. (New) Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said adaptation comprises an inner threading.

28. (New) Hole forming apparatus for forming a hole in a blood vessel, comprising:

a penetration head having a tip adapted to penetrate a blood vessel wall and defining an axial lumen; and

a tip protector configured to pass through said lumen and protect said tip from damaging the blood vessel after said penetration.

29. (New) Apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said tip protector comprises a control for manually positioning said tip protector to selectively protect said tip.